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FM AMCONSUL SAO PAULO  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5540  
INFO RHEHNSC/NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY 6614  
RUEHRI/AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO PRIORITY 7323  
RUCPDOC/USDOC WASHDC 2526

UNCLAS SAO PAULO 000849

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STATE INR/R/MR; IIP/R/MR; WHA/PD

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E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: KMDR OPRC OIIP ETRD BR

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: WESTERN HEMISPHERE: CUBA; SAO PAULO

"Cuban Crisis"

Columnist Nelson Motta commented in liberal, largest national circulation daily Folha de S. Paulo (8/4): "Everyone is sympathetic with Cuba and its brave and joyful people, even among those who hate the revolution, its leader and its bureaucrats. But no one knows why the US doesn't allow its tourists to invade the island, sell to Cuba everything it needs - which is almost everything - and end this foolishness that has made Cubans suffer for 40 years. As a result, Americans lose money and Fidel gains power.... The 2 million exiled Cubans in Miami are the ones who decide the elections in Florida.... Politicians flatter them and do everything they want against Fidel. After all, when the US Presidency is at stake, who cares about Cuba?.... This minority that decides the destiny of two nations is dominated by a minority of old Cuban families that for 40 years want their island back.... A shame, if the money from American tourism and commerce were added to the capital and competence of Cubans in Miami and the talent, education and health of the island, in very little time, Cuba would become the most prosperous and happy country in Latin America."

McMullen